# **EXHIBIT A**

#### KELLEY DRYE & WARREN LLP

A LIMITED EXABILITY PARTNERSHIP

333 WEST WACKER DRIVE

**SUITE 2600** 

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606

(312) 857-7070

FACSIMILE (312) 857-7095

www.kelleydrye.com

DIRECT LINE: (202) 955-9869

EMAIL: kbaraga@kelleydrye.com

NEW YORK, NY WASHINGTON, DC

TYSONS CORNER, VA

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BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

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JAKARTA, INDONESIA
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August 4, 2005

## Via UPS

Elizabeth A. Rolando Chief Clerk Illinois Commerce Commission 527 East Capitol Avenue Springfield, IL 62701

Re:

Informational Filing Regarding the Transfer of Assets of CoreComm

Illinois, Inc. to First Communications LLC

## Dear Ms. Rolando:

First Communications, LLC ("First") and CoreComm Illinois, Inc. ("CoreComm") (First and CoreComm, collectively the "Parties") by their undersigned counsel and pursuant to 220 ILCS 5/13-601, hereby respectfully notify the Illinois Commerce Commission of a proposed transfer of assets of CoreComm, including the CoreComm customer base, to First Communications without customer interruption on or about September 3, 2005.

As described in more detail below, CoreComm's existing customers will continue to receive their same services at the same rates, but under the First Communications name. The proposed transaction is not expected to result in any loss or impairment of service to any CoreComm customers. First will continue to provide telecommunications services, including service to existing customers, in the same manner as it does today. The Parties understand that prior Commission approval of the proposed transfer of assets described herein is not required. Accordingly, the Parties submit this letter for the Commission's information only.

## **Description of the Parties**

<sup>220</sup> ILCS 5/7-204, which requires approval for a transfer of control, does not apply to competitive carriers or transfers of assets.

Illinois Commerce Commission Page 2

First Communications. First is an Ohio limited liability company with its principal place of business located at 3340 West Market Street, Akron, Ohio 44333. Founded in 1984, First is a common carrier that provides local, private line and long distance services to both business and residential customers in several states in the U.S. Currently, First provides telecommunications services to approximately 70,000 customers, located primarily in Florida, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. First's services include, in addition to traditional local and long distance services, toll-free services, conference calling packages, calling cards, prepaid calling cards, Internet access, and dedicated and private line services. First's telecommunications services are provided primarily on a resale basis using facilities and switches that are owned and operated by other telecommunications carriers. First is certificated to provide local exchange telecommunications services and/or intrastate interexchange services in several states, including in Illinois.<sup>2</sup> First provides domestic and international telecommunications services pursuant to authorizations granted by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC").

CoreComm Illinois, Inc. CoreComm is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 100 Renaissance Boulevard, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406. CoreComm is certificated to provide local exchange telecommunications services and intrastate interexchange services in Illinois.<sup>3</sup>

# **Designated Contacts**

The designated contacts for questions concerning this notice are:

For First:	For CoreComm:
Joseph R. Morris	Bruce Bennett
Chief Operating Officer	Vice President External Affairs
First Communications LLC	70 Hubbard Street
3340 W. Market Street	Suite 410
Akron, Ohio 44333	Chicago, IL 60010
Tel: (330) 835-2472	Tel: (312) 445-1161
Fax: (330) 835-2330	Fax: (312) 445-1232
imorris@firstcomm.com	bruce.bennett@atx.com

See the Order in Docket 03-0709 authorizing First to provide resold and facilities-based local and interexchange telecommunications services; March 3, 2004.

See the Order in Docket 99-0037 authorizing CoreComm to provide resold and facilities-based local and interexchange telecommunications services; March 24, 1999.

Illinois Commerce Commission Page 3

For First:	For CoreComm:
Steven A. Augustino	John Dragani
Karly E. Baraga	Senior Litigation Counsel
Kelley Drye &Warren, LLP	100 Renaissance Blvd.
1200 19th Street, NW, Suite 500	King of Prussia, PA 19406
Washington, DC 20036	Tel: (610) 755-4395
Tel: (202) 955-9600	Fax: (610) 755-3316
Fax: (202) 955-9792	john.dragani@atx.com
saugustino@kelleydrye.com	
kbaraga@kelleydrye.com	
Julie M. Musselman	
Telecommunications Policy Analyst	
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP	
333 West Wacker Drive	
Chicago, IL 60606	
Tel. (312) 857-2617	
Fax: (312) 857-7095	
jmusselman@kelleydrye.com	

# Description of the Transaction and Transfer of Customers

First and CoreComm's ultimate parent company, ATX Communications, Inc., have reached an agreement providing for First's acquisition of substantially all of the assets of CoreComm, including CoreComm's customers, working capital (including accounts receivable), and switching equipment. CoreComm's certificates will not be assigned. Closing is subject to receipt of all necessary regulatory approvals. Following the close of the transaction, First will provide intrastate service to CoreComm's customers in Illinois pursuant to its own certificate.

The transfer of customers will have no adverse impact on the provision of service to customers. Following completion of the transaction, First will provide the same telecommunications service to the former CoreComm customers that they had prior to the transfer. To ensure a seamless transition and avoid customer confusion or inconvenience, the Parties will provide advance written notice to the affected customers at least thirty days prior to the transfer. The Parties certify that they intend to comply with the requirement to provide subscriber notice in accordance with 47 C.F.R. §64.1120(e)(3), with the obligations specified in that notice, and with other statutory and Commission requirements that apply to this streamlined process. A copy of the notification letter is attached as Exhibit A.

## Tariff Rates, Terms and Conditions

In connection with this transaction, CoreComm customers will continue to receive the

Illinois Commerce Commission Page 4

same service offerings at the same rates as they receive today, but the terms and conditions of those services will be provided under First's tariffed terms and conditions as filed with the Commission. As such, the Parties do not seek to transfer the CoreComm tariff in toto, only the rates as currently offered to the CoreComm customers. CoreComm customers will be given a copy of First's terms and conditions as part of the customer notification. Any future changes in the rates, terms and condition of service will be made consistent with Commission requirements.

### Discontinuance of CoreComm Service

Upon completion of the transaction, CoreComm will no longer offer telecommunications service in Illinois. CoreComm understands that in order to fully effectuate the discontinuance of service, it must petition the Commission for withdrawal of its certification. This filing will be made expeditiously, but not until after the transaction described above is consummated.

The Parties are complying with the Commission's regulations relating to the transfer of a customer base and, as noted, will provide written notice of the transfer of service to the affected CoreComm customers.

### **Public Interest Considerations**

The transfer of assets of CoreComm to First will serve the public interest. It is expected that the transaction will increase competition in the Illinois telecommunications market by strengthening First's position as an effective telecommunications carrier. CoreComm has a successful record of providing service to Illinois customers for over five years. First has similarly established a reputation as a successful telecommunications provider in the State of Illinois for over one year. First has grown rapidly and expanded its operations nationwide. First has, and will continue to have, strong financial, managerial and technical abilities, and thus is well-qualified and equipped to provide comprehensive, reliable and cost-effective service to the customers in Illinois. As noted previously, there will be no impairment or interruption of service to Illinois subscribers as a result of First's purchase of CoreComm's assets.

The contact for customer and Commission inquiries will continue to be: Mary Cegelski, First Communications LLC, 3340 West Market Street, Akron, Ohio 44333, telephone number: (330) 835-2272, email mcegelski@firstcomm.com.

As noted above, the Parties do not believe that Commission approval is required for the proposed transfer of assets described herein. Should the Commission determine otherwise, the Parties respectfully request that the Commission notify them as soon as possible. Enclosed please find three (3) copies of this filing, a duplicate and a self-addressed, postage-paid envelope. Please date-stamp the duplicate upon receipt and return it in the envelope provided. Should the Commission have any questions, please contact Julie Musselman at (312) 857-2617.

Illinois Commerce Commission Page 5

Respectfully submitted,

FIRST COMMUNICATIONS, LLC CORECOMM ILLINOIS, INC.

By:Karly E. Baraga

Kelley Drye & Warren, LLP 1200 19th Street, NW, Suite 500

Washington, DC 20036 Tel: (202) 955-9600 Fax: (202) 955-9792

Cc: John Hester, Director – Telecommunications Division Scott Wiseman, Executive Director

# VERIFICATION

I, Joseph R. Morris, Chief Operating Officer of First Communications, LLC, and am authorized to represent it and its affiliates, and to make this verification on their behalf. The statements in the foregoing document relating to this company and its affiliates, except as otherwise specifically attributed, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Joseph R. Morris

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of July 2005.

Chery Plassing.
Notary Public

My Commission expires: 1-8-08

## VERIFICATION

I, Jeffrey Coursen, am Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for ATX Communications, Inc. ("ATX"), and am authorized to represent it and its affiliates, and to make this verification on their behalf. The statements in the foregoing document relating to this company and its affiliates, except as otherwise specifically attributed, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8

July 2005.

My Commission expires:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Notarial Seal
Melissa A. Frey, Notary Public
Upper Merion Twp., Montgomery County
My Commission Expires Oct. 31, 2006

Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries